



Public Affairs Section
United States Embassy Dakar, Senegal

U.S.A. Black History Month
2011 Essay Contest

In celebration of Black History Month (February), the United States Embassy is pleased to announce an essay contest on remarkable figures in African-American and Senegalese history. This contest is open to Senegalese High School and University students resident in Senegal.

Contest Guidelines and Rules

- Essay Topic: “*Finding Heroes: Past and Present, US and Senegalese*” Write an essay comparing one African-American hero with one Senegalese hero.

Entrants should choose a remarkable African-American person (past or present) that contributed to, or continues to contribute to, American progress in a significant and positive way. Describe what this person contributed to society (any field, medicine, civil rights, science, economics, politics, etc. is fine). Your essay must compare the African-American with a similar figure from Senegal’s history (past or present). Make a strong and convincing comparison. What do they have in common? What did they do differently? How are the legacies of each individual still alive today?

- Who may enter: Contest is open to students between the ages of 16 and 25. You must be a *citizen of Senegal*, enrolled full time in a local High School or University (public or private) to enter.
- Essays must be written in **English** with a **minimum** of 500 words and a **maximum** of 700 words. The text should be **double-spaced** using “**Times New Roman**”, **12-point font**. Submissions that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.
- Submission deadline: **Tuesday, February 15, 2011 by 17:00** by e-mail. Essays should be submitted *as attachment* via email to: educationusadkr@state.gov
- When submitting your essay, you must include your full name, date of birth, e-mail address, telephone number, and whether you are a university or a high school student (top left corner of each page). All personal information will be kept confidential and used for contact purposes only.
- All essays must be the original work of the entrant. You must provide appropriate citations for any quotes or reference materials used, including internet sources.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded for each level (University and High School). The 1st place essayists from each level will win a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, Marcia S. Bernicat.
- Winners will be notified by phone and announced on the U.S. Embassy Dakar’s Facebook page. Estimated notification/announcement date: **March 1, 2011**.
- Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Educational Advising Service of the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy at **33-829-2375** or to educationusadkr@state.gov